

Iowa Crops & Weather



Iowa Agricultural Statistics
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For the month of February 2005

Anxiously Awaiting Spring

Agricultural Summary: Mild temperatures were beneficial for farmers and livestock. A few calves being born. In some areas cattle are still enjoying the corn stalk fields, however as the fields start softening up livestock being taken out to prevent compaction. Producers report that gains were above average for all livestock on feed. Farm to elevator grain movement was reported to be moderate. Some dry fertilizer was being applied. Producers waiting for ground conditions to settle so manure application can continue. Reporters note concern over rising fuel costs and the potential for Asian Rust, however, they also noted that crop specialists continue to be vigilant on this issue.

At the end of February, the average depth of **snow cover** across Iowa was visibly zero inches, compared to 3 inches at the same time last year. The average depth of **frost penetration** for the state was 7 inches, compared to last year's 12 inches. **Soil moisture availability** was rated 1 percent very short, 11 percent short, 73 percent adequate, and 15 percent surplus. **Movement of grain** for the state was 17 percent none, 37 percent light, 40 percent moderate, and 6 percent heavy.

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was 4 percent short, 75 percent adequate, and 21 percent surplus. **Quality of hay and roughage supplies** was 6 percent poor, 41 percent fair, and 53 percent good. **Utilization of stubble fields for grazing** rated 32 percent none, 28 percent limited, 27 percent moderate, and 13 percent extensive.

Hog and pig losses in February were 24 percent below average, 72 percent average, and 4 percent above average. **Cattle and calf losses** were 26 percent below average, 69 percent average, and 5 percent above average.

Iowa Preliminary Weather Summary - February 2005

General Summary: February temperatures averaged 31.1 degrees or 6.9 degrees above normal while precipitation totaled 1.65 inches or 0.67 inches greater than normal. This ranks as the 15th warmest and 20th wettest February among 133 years of state records.

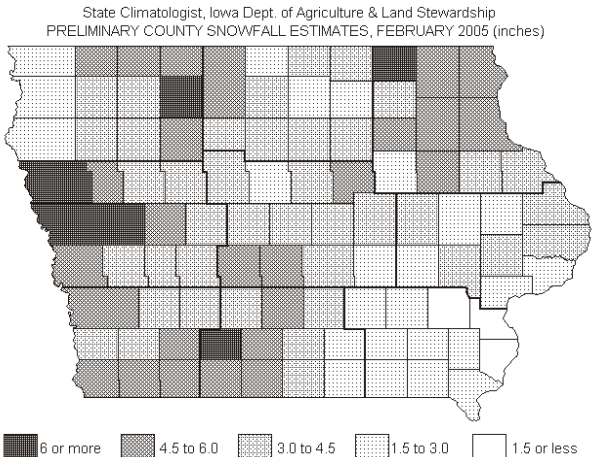
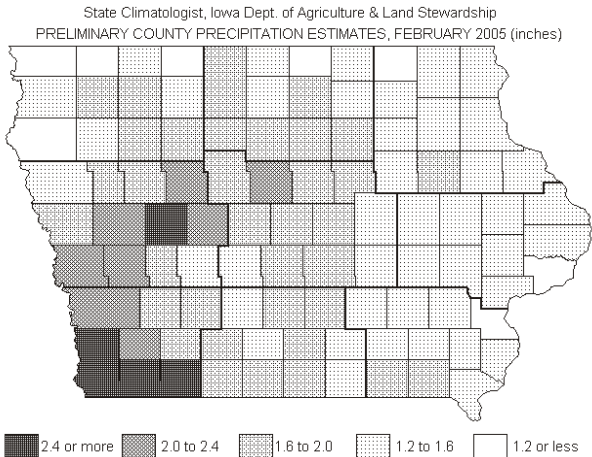
Temperatures: Mild weather prevailed for most of the month as below normal temperatures were confined to only five days (8th-10th, 18th and 28th). Sub-zero temperatures were

recorded on only the 9th and 10th with Guthrie Center and Atlantic reporting the month's lowest temperatures with -5 degree readings on the morning of the 10th. Temperatures reached into the 60's across parts of western Iowa on the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 14th. The warmest day was on the 4th when afternoon highs in the 60's were recorded across the western one-third of Iowa with Sioux Center reaching 67 degrees.

Heating Degree Days: Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 24 percent less than last February and 18 percent less than normal. Thus far this heating season (since July 1, 2004) degree day totals are running 10 percent less than last season and 13 percent less than normal.

Precipitation: Precipitation was frequent during the month but mainly fell as rain rather than snow. Over one-half of February's precipitation total came during one storm at mid-month. Rain moved into southwestern Iowa late on the 12th and finally departed the state early on the 14th. Rain fell statewide, averaging 0.87 inches, with Bedford reporting the most rain with 1.85 inches. Another storm event on the 6th-7th brought precipitation to all but far northwest Iowa. Rainfall totals with this early month storm reached 1.70 inches at Glenwood with 1 to 3 inches of snow falling from southwest into north central Iowa. Another storm event on the 8th-9th brought 1 to 2 inches of snow to most of Iowa with 4 inches reported at several southwest Iowa locations. There were several other minor precipitation events during the month. The most significant of these was a snow event on the 24th when light snow fell from northwest into south central Iowa with 3.5 inches reported at Spirit Lake. Snowfall for the month averaged 3.9 inches or 2.4 inches less than usual. Preliminary monthly precipitation totals varied from 1.01 inches at Davenport to 3.45 inches at Glenwood. The Glenwood total surpasses their previous February record of 3.37 inches set in 1919.

Winter Summary: Temperatures over the three mid-winter months averaged 25.4 degrees or 3.9 degrees above normal while precipitation totaled 3.59 inches or 0.42 inches greater than usual. This ranks as the 23rd warmest and 49th wettest winter among 133 years of records. Snowfall so far this winter season has averaged 15.9 inches or 9.8 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 22nd lowest season-to-date snowfall total among 118 years of statewide snowfall averages.



Snow Cover and Frost Penetration for the Month of February

Item	Districts									State	Last Month	Last Year
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE			
	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches
Snow cover	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3
Frost penetration	12	10	13	8	8	8	2	1	1	7	16	12

February Weather Summary For Iowa Agricultural Statistics Service Prepared by AWIS, Inc.											
STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION			HDD TOT	HDD DFN	DAYS OF 32 COLD	DAYS OF 28 COLD
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS				
Estherville Sioux Center Spencer Spirit Lake	North West District										
	62	2	29	12	0.65	-0.12	4	1,001	-326	26	20
	67	-1	32	12	1.08	0.39	5	914	-304	27	21
	63	2	31	12	1.08	0.39	5	947	-319	22	18
	61	4	28	12	1.16	0.44	2	1,017	-113	25	22
Britt Humboldt Mason City Northwood	North Central District										
	58	3	28	8	1.43	0.52	8	1,041	-211	28	22
	56	5	29	8	1.60	0.81	10	1,000	-239	26	23
	55	3	30	12	1.65	0.79	8	980	-318	25	18
	54	5	28	11	1.34	0.58	9	1,041	-300	27	24
Decorah Dubuque Elkader Independence Waterloo	North East District										
	54	4	30	10	1.10	0.28	8	976	-266	27	20
	46	7	30	10	1.27	-0.05	11	976	-252	23	18
	54	2	28	7	1.35	0.18	9	1,021	-57	26	23
	53	2	29	10	1.61	0.47	9	996	-109	25	23
Audubon Carroll Castana Guthrie Center Harlan Jefferson Logan Rockwell City Sioux City	49	3	30	11	1.35	0.27	9	974	-286	23	19
	West Central District										
	58	-4	30	6	1.26	0.32	6	973	-160	26	23
	60	3	30	9	2.47	1.67	8	964	-236	24	21
	61	5	31	7	1.51	0.89	9	946	-300	26	21
Cedar Rapids Davenport Iowa City Lowden Maquoketa Muscatine	58	-5	31	8	1.18	0.12	5	955	-217	24	22
	59	-2	31	7	2.19	1.39	8	956	-255	26	22
	59	2	31	10	2.22	1.42	11	942	-258	24	21
	62	-3	31	8	2.08	1.27	8	945	-197	27	23
	59	5	30	8	2.19	1.49	8	985	-192	28	22
Ames Boone Des Moines Eldora Marshalltown Newton Perry Toledo	66	0	33	10	0.40	-0.31	5	881	-280	22	16
	Central District										
	57	0	32	12	1.60	0.67	12	914	-319	24	19
	58	2	31	9	1.66	0.60	10	952	-242	25	21
	61	5	34	10	1.55	0.44	9	852	-278	20	17
Cedar Rapids Davenport Iowa City Lowden Maquoketa Muscatine	56	2	30	10	1.79	0.84	9	980	-256	25	22
	55	1	31	10	1.16	0.09	9	942	-258	23	18
	59	3	31	8	1.85	0.81	8	945	-204	25	21
	60	0	31	10	1.54	0.73	10	948	-260	25	21
	55	2	30	9	1.05	0.12	8	983	-241	26	22
Cedar Rapids Davenport Iowa City Lowden Maquoketa Muscatine	East Central District										
	54	2	32	10	1.00	-0.02	9	922	-255	23	17
	55	9	33	10	1.02	0.08	9	875	-255	23	17
	58	9	35	9	1.27	0.31	9	847	-248	19	17
	56	3	31	10	1.43	0.12	11	954	-221	24	21
Clarinda Glenwood Oakland Red Oak Sidney	50	3	29	9	1.14	0.08	11	990	-228	25	21
	55	9	33	8	1.30	0.23	9	884	-362	24	19
	South West District										
	61	-4	32	8	1.54	0.62	7	913	-201	25	21
	64	-1	33	8	3.58	2.79	7	884	-207	26	20
Allerton Beaconsfield Chariton Indianola Leon	61	0	32	10	1.94	1.14	7	909	-254	23	21
	64	0	33	8	2.19	1.18	8	877	-191	24	21
	63	8	35	8	2.90	2.06	7	845	-227	23	18
	South Central District										
	58	3	32	8	1.89	0.92	9	912	-432	25	23
Bloomfield Burlington Ottumwa	60	5	32	8	1.44	0.68	8	905	-223	24	20
	60	1	33	9	1.16	0.11	9	894	-241	23	22
	64	1	33	9	1.83	0.81	8	893	-227	24	21
	62	-2	33	8	1.70	0.71	8	892	-228	25	24
	South East District										
Bloomfield Burlington Ottumwa	58	6	34	7	1.62	0.62	9	872	-175	23	20
	58	12	36	10	1.39	0.23	10	805	-267	22	14
	59	6	35	9	1.28	0.37	7	848	-245	20	16

Precipitation (rain, melted snow or ice) in inches. Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more. Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit. Copyright 2005: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.